

While traveling through Europe, David Fairchild, in charge of this office, visited some of the leading nurseries and arboreta in France and England. As a result of his visits there has been sent in propagating material of a large number of rare and promising trees and shrubs, mostly from the cooler parts of eastern Asia. Doctor Fairchild also visited Algeria, sending in from that country, among other things, seeds of the argan (*Argania spinosa*, No. 62660), a large drought-resistant evergreen tree of western Morocco which grows in very rocky soil and bears an abundance of light-yellow plumlike fruits eaten by stock. The seeds yield an oil which can be used for cooking.

A firlike tree from western China (*Keteleeria davidiana*, No. 62254) should be of interest. It is a tree of pyramidal habit which sometimes becomes 100 feet tall, and it has glossy green foliage. Two excellent evergreens previously introduced from this region which have found a place in American horticulture are the Chinese juniper (*Juniperus chinensis*) and the white-barked pine (*Pinus bungeana*). Mention should also be made, in this connection, of the East African juniper (*Juniperus procera*, No. 62395), which Doctor Sargent, director of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., considers the handsomest juniper in the world. It may be sufficiently hardy to grow in Florida and southern California.

Gladiolus breeders will be especially interested in the introduction of a number of indigenous species from South Africa (*Gladiolus* spp., Nos. 62653, 62857-62860). The rapidly increasing interest in this group of ornamentals should stimulate attempts to create new varieties by crossbreeding.

A remarkable collection of rice varieties (*Oryza sativa*, Nos. 62523-62550) was presented by H. Ando, Director of the Imperial Agricultural Experiment Station at Nishigahara, Tokyo, Japan. These varieties, purebred through selection, had been grown at the station for several years and include both early and late maturing forms. Another rice collection consisting of nearly 200 varieties (*Oryza sativa*, Nos. 62962-63148), mostly crossbred, was presented by Yoshinori Takesaki, of the Imperial University at Kyoto, Japan.

The botanical determinations of these introductions have been made and the nomenclature determined by H. C. Skeels, and the descriptive matter has been prepared under the direction of Paul Russell, who has had general supervision of this inventory.

ROLAND MCKEE,

Acting Senior Agricultural Explorer in Charge.

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